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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT INPFC ANNUAL MEETING

REF: TOKYO 13977

1. NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY ISSUES WHICH US BELIEVES WILL
NEED TO BE ADDRESSED AT INPFC ANNUAL MEETING INCLUDE
EASTERN BERING SEA HALIBUT CLOSURES, DECLINING ABUNDANCE
OF GROUND FISH RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY POLLOCK, AND EXPECT-
ED LOW RUN OF BRISTOL BAY SALMON.

2. EASTERN BERING SEA HALIBUT CLOSURES: US EXPECTS JAPAN
TO RAISE ISSUE OF DIFFERENCES IN AGREEMENTS RELATING TO
SOVIET AND JAPANESE FISHERIES IN EASTERN BERING SEA AND
THAT JAPAN WILL SEEK ELIMINATION OF THOSE DIFFERENCES.
US NOTES THAT ON BASIS OF DATA AVAILABLE TO IT, THESE
DIFFERENCES HAVE NOT DENIED JAPANESE VESSELS OPPORTUNITY

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TO FISH FOR POLLOCK AND WILL RECOMMEND THAT JAPAN CONTINUE

TO MAINTAIN EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM PROTECTION FOR HALIBUT.

3. GROUND FISH RESOURCES: DESPITE REDUCTIONS MADE IN JAPANESE GROUND FISH CATCHES UNDER US/JAPAN BILATERAL AGREEMENT, ABUNDANCE OF GROUND FISHES, PARTICULARLY

POLLOCK, CONTINUES TO DECLINE. THIS PROBLEM IS COMPOUNDED BY INCREASE IN FOREIGN NATIONS FISHING FOR SAME RESOURCES. US IS OF VIEW THAT TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH FOR ALL COUNTRIES FISHING IN NORTHEAST PACIFIC MUST BE SHARPLY REDUCED TO NOT ONLY STOP THIS DECLINE BUT TO HELP REBUILD STOCKS. US RECOGNIZES THAT SUBJECT OF MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS MAY BE VIEWED BY JAPAN AS NOT WITHIN PURVIEW OF COMMISSION. ON OTHER HAND, CONSERVATION IS AND IN ORDER FOR COMMISSION TO BE EFFECTIVE IN RECOMMENDING NECESSARY CONSERVATION MEASURES, US BELIEVES THAT THERE WILL BE NEED FOR FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON ISSUE OF TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH.

4.3 BRISTOL BAY RED SALMON: SCIENTISTS OF ADF&G PREDICT THE RUN OF RED SALMON TO BRISTOL BAY IN 1976 WILL BE LOW--ABOUT 11 MILLION FISH. US WILL WISH TO RAISE THIS ISSUE AT ANNUAL MEETING AND WILL REQUEST JAPAN'S SPECIAL CONSIDERATION OF THIS PROBLEM. IN THIS CONNECTION, US EXPECTS JAPAN TO RAISE QUESTIONS REGARDING FORECAST TECHNIQUES AND THEIR ACCURACY.

5. OTHER SUBJECTS US WILL PLAN ON RAISING INCLUDE JAPAN'S LAND-BASED FISHERY FOR RED SALMON AND CENTRAL BERING SEA FISHERY FOR CHUMS AND CHINOOKS. KISSINGER

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